

REMARKS

Applicant has carefully reviewed the *Ex parte Quayle* Office Action mailed October 13, 2004, which closes further prosecution on the merits and raises some minor informalities, and indicates that applicant's claims are directed to patentable subject matter. Claims 1-16 remain in the application, and applicant requests early formal allowance.

The PTO has an incorrect attorney docket number for the present application on the Office Action mailed October 13, 2004. The correct attorney docket number for the present application is "Trionfetti=9". Applicant respectfully requests that the PTO records be corrected to reflect the correct attorney docket number.

Acknowledgement by the PTO of the receipt of applicant's papers filed under §119 is noted.

Claims 1-12 and 14 have been allowed. Applicant understands that these claims meet all requirements for patentability including the novelty and unobviousness requirements of §§102 and 103.

While claims 13, 15 and 16 have been objected to, they also are indicated in the Office Action (bottom on numbered page 2) as being "allowable over the prior art of

record". Applicant accordingly understands that these claims also are deemed by the PTO to define novel and unobvious subject matter under §§102 and 103.

Claims 13, 15 and 16 have been objected to, and the examiner's helpful suggestions have been adopted, whereby these claims should now also be ready for formal allowance.

For the record, these claims have not been rejected and therefore the amendments made above are not substantial amendments relating to patentability. Such amendments are of a formal nature only, i.e. made to place the claims in improved form for U.S. practice. Such amendments are not "narrowing" amendments because the scope of the claims has not been reduced. No limitations have been added and none are intended.

The prior art documents made of record and not replied upon have been noted, along with the implication that such documents are deemed by the PTO to be insufficiently pertinent to warrant their application against any of applicant's claims.

Applicant believes that all issues have been addressed above and that the present application is now in

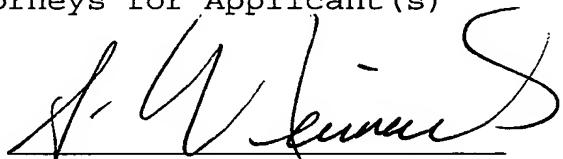
Appln. No. 10/721,366
Amd. dated November 30, 2004
Reply to Office Action of October 13, 2004

condition for formal allowance, whereby early formal allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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